

NOTES ON BIRDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOHN WILLIAMS, ST. MARKS, FLA.

(Continued from March, 1920, Wilson Bulletin.)

138. *Tyrannus tyrannus*—Kingbird.

Quite numerous about our villages as well as in the more open country generally. One pair building as late as July 18, 1915. Young left this nest August 22. In flocks of two hundred to three hundred or more during September as they travel southward. March 24, 1918, October 4, 1918.

139. *Tyrannus dominicensis*—Gray Kingbird.*

I have never seen this bird far from the coast and have only found it nesting within sight of the wide waters of our gulf. May 22, 1913, fresh eggs, June 6, 1915, young in nest almost grown, September 26, 1917.

140. *Myiarchus crinitus*—Crested Flycatcher.*

A noisy inhabitant of our villages and plantations and frequently nest at the border of timberlands. I have found them nesting in Martin boxes, in deserted dwellings, between a metal roofing and the under board sheathing, in stovepipling protruding through buildings, and in the broken corner of the porch of an occupied dwelling, but they usually select the deserted home of a Woodpecker. Local name, "Yellowhammer." April 1, 1918, September 23, 1913.

141. *Gayornis phæbe*—Phæbe.

Unlike many of our winter visitors from the North the Phæbe continues his gentle tones while with us, the while keeping time with swaying tail. October 1, 1917, April 4, 1915.

142. *Empidonax flaviventris*—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Migrant. Dr. T. S. Palmer of the Biological Survey, identified the only living specimen I have seen as we passed through a small "island" a half mile back of our light house. May 2, 1919.

143. *Myiochanes virens*—Wood Pewee.

Summer resident. Not found here abundantly, but rather regularly distributed outside of the low timbered areas. April 15, 1918, October 15, 1916.

144. *Empidonax virescens*—Acadian Flycatcher.

Summer resident. Only found in limited numbers nesting along the river bottoms or in heavy timber bordering a pond or stream.

145. *Cyanocitta cristata florineola*—Florida Blue Jay.

Resident. Numerous throughout the county, frequenting villages and timbered tracts along streams and about ponds as well

* See Wilson Bulletin, June, 1919.

as in the more open pine woods to a more limited degree. Nest building begins by late March or early April.

146. *Corvus brachyrhynchos pascuus*—Florida Crow.

Excepting during a rather brief nesting season these birds are associated in flocks frequently numbering hundreds to thousands and breaking up during the feeding hours into smaller bands, but all congregating on the coast marshes or in heavy timber about sunset at a common roosting site. April 1, 1917, fresh eggs, May 3, 1914, young just out of nest.

147. *Corvus ossifragus*—Fish Crow.

Probably our most abundant resident species, and like the Florida Crow, is to be found in flocks during most of the year. At times while passing high overhead, a flock will perform evolutions, seemingly in dispute as to a course to be pursued, and a general circling and counter circling will continue for two or three minutes, when perhaps a direct flight will ensue for a few minutes, and again more confusion and circling, the whole performance enlivened by most emphatic demands and protests by apparently every member of the flock. Local name, "Jackdaw."

148. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—Bobolink.

The spring arrivals appear usually by mid-April and tarry until well along in May. The autumnal visit is more brief and extends usually during the first two weeks in September. Local name, "May bird." April 9, 1914, May 22, 1914, September 1, 1915, October 1, 1917.

149. *Molothrus ater*—Cowbird.

My own observations would not indicate the Cowbird at all numerous here, but from reports I take it they are found rather regularly in flocks of varying sizes from late summer through the winter. August 24, 1917, April 21, 1914.

150. *Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus*—Florida Redwing.

Abundant in the vicinity of the coast and in more open sections about ponds and streams. Between nesting seasons they congregate in large flocks for the most part and repair to the marshes for a nightly roosting place. Commence laying May 10 to 15. Local name, "Rice bird."

151. *Sturnella magna argutula*—Southern Meadowlark.

Numerous in flocks of twenty to fifty or more in the fall and winter along the coastal marshes, but nesting more abundantly farther inland. Song with less volume and not as melodious as that of the Northern form. Young ready to fly June 2, 1913.

152. *Icterus spurius*—Orchard Oriole.

Quite frequent near the coast wherever tree growth is congenial, and a common breeder throughout the more cleared areas

of the county. May 19, 1913, young in nest, July 12, 1916, young in nest. March 29, 1917, September 3, 1915.

153. *Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus*—Florida Grackle.

Occur in flocks of several hundred during the cooler season and nest, frequently in small communities, along streams and about ponds generally throughout the region. Local name, "China-eyed Blackbird."

154. *Megaquiscalus major major*—Boat-tailed Grackle.

Resident. A fairly numerous species, frequenting the salt marshes almost exclusively. April 21, 1917, young about a week old, May 9, 1916, three fresh eggs. Local name, "Saltwater Blackbird."

155. *Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*—Purple Finch.

It may occur more regularly than my notes indicate. During some winters I do not see them. January 19, 1914, February 17, 1917.

156. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*—Goldfinch.

Occurs usually every winter, but I have not observed it in any considerable numbers. January 8, 1914, March 7, 1917.

157. *Præcetes gramineus gramineus*—Vesper Sparrow.

A regular winter visitor, more abundant among the higher inland fields than on our lower sections. November 15, 1913, March 11, 1919.

158. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*—Savanna Sparrow.

An abundant species from October until April. Occurs on the broad coastal and river marshes as well as inland. October 16, 1916, May 10, 1919.

159. *Anmodramus savannarum australis*—Grasshopper Sparrow.

Perhaps this bird occurs regularly on migration. My only record is one shot on the Gulf shore, April 10, 1915, in bright breeding plumage.

160. *Passerherbulus henslowi*—Henslow's Sparrow.

A more or less regular winter visitor. One taken March 7, 1919.

161. *Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*—Nelson's Sparrow.

I have not found the Sharptails abundant, but they occur regularly in winter on our extensive tidal marshes.

162. *Passerherbulus maritimus peninsula*—Scott Seaside Sparrow.

A regular and rather numerous resident of our larger tidal marshes. June 6, 1915, nest with one fresh egg.

163. *Passerherbulus maritimus fisheri*—Louisiana Seaside Sparrow.

Mr. Ludlow Griscom reports 8 at East Goose Creek, Wakulla County, Florida, on December 29, 1915. Bird Lore. January-February, 1916. It may be a regular winter visitor on our coast.

164. *Chondestes grammacus grammacus*—Lark Sparrow.

One bird shot and another was seen April 10, 1915. I have no further information relative to the occurrence of the species here.

165. *Zonotrichia albicollis*—White-throated Sparrow.

Usually occurs every winter in small flocks, remaining into April. November 15, 1917, April 21, 1914.

166. *Spizella passerina passerina*—Chipping Sparrow.

Probably a regular winter visitor in the higher parts of the county. About St. Marks only seen occasionally. December 24, 1916, twenty or more seen near Wakulla. April 13, 1918, two seen near St. Marks.

167. *Spizella pusilla pusilla*—Field Sparrow.

I have not found it a regular winter visitor. Another of the numerous species that shun our low country contiguous to the coast and are found more abundant even a few miles inland.

168. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*—Slate-colored Junco.

My sole record was a single bird seen near Wakulla, six miles north of St. Marks, on December 24, 1916. As the bird was not taken there remains a doubt as to the exact form.

169. *Peucea aestivalis aestivalis*—Pine-woods Sparrow.

Resident. Occurs in the more open piney woods sections and are most numerous in the higher, drier areas. Their sweet, inspiring little song is a charming bit of melody.

170. *Melospiza melodia melodia*—Song Sparrow.

A few are to be found every winter along shore and inland in suitable localities. October 9, 1916, March 26, 1914.

171. *Melospiza georgiana*—Swamp Sparrow.

I do not find it numerous, but regularly every winter in the marshes and about streams and ponds. November 21, 1913, May 9, 1916.

172. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*—Towhee.

Found well scattered during the winter season except in the heavy timbered sections. April 10, 1918, May 3, 1919.

173. *Pipilo e. alleni*—White-eyed Towhee.

Resident. Quite numerous and widely distributed. Local name, "Jo ree."

174. *Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus*—Florida Cardinal.

An abundant resident, frequenting wooded "Branches" and borders of timbered areas. In winter flocks of ten to twenty or more often occur. Young out of nest May 4, 1918.

175. *Passerina cyanea*—Indigo Bunting.

A single specimen taken, June 21, 1913, constitutes my record for the species here.

176. *Piranga rubra rubra*—Summer Tanager.

A rather numerous breeding species, frequenting pine groves

or borders of hammocks. Much discredited from belief that they are quite destructive to honeybees. June 2, 1913, young just out of nest. April 28, 1918, fresh eggs, April 5, 1916, September 26, 1915.

177. *Progne subis subis*—Purple Martin.*

While local in their breeding distribution the "Martin" is frequently found in the pine woods far from any artificial nesting places. They may nest in holes in trees, although I have no definite knowledge thereof. The males usually, perhaps always, precede the females in their arrival in the spring. February 3 to February 14 is the range of their appearance as covered by several years' notes. June 12, 1915, young left boxes, October 2, 1916, latest date.

178. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*—Cliff Swallow.

I had not previously seen this bird here until September 9, 1915, when one was noted in the company of forty or more Barn Swallows flying over the river near the fish houses at St. Marks. But a single bird was seen. It was observed repeatedly in the course of an hour or more. On September 13, 1915, one was seen over the river at fish houses. On May 10, 1917, five flew about the fish houses for some time. September 24, 1917, one was seen at the lighthouse in company with numbers of Tree and Barn Swallows.

179. *Hirundo erythrogastra*—Barn Swallow.

Migrant. I have no record of this species nesting with us, but they occur frequently almost every year until early June. June 18, 1915. I have but two records of single birds between June 18 and August 21, and with these exceptions the fall dates commence September 9. November 7, 1915, is my latest fall record. They occur in flocks of considerable size in September and early October.

180. *Irotoprocne bicolor*—Tree Swallow.

Occur in large flocks during the autumnal migrations and less numerous in the spring, while a few remain throughout the winter. September 9, 1915 and 1917, May 31, 1919.

181. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Rough-winged Swallow.

A few remain almost every summer about St. Marks and rear their young. During the winter of 1916-17 a single bird was seen repeatedly about the fish houses until January 2. Usually few are seen after November 1. April 2, 1914, is earliest date for an arrival.

182. *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Cedar Waxwing.

Flocks of eight or ten to forty or more are not unusual from December until April—December 7, 1916, April 22, 1914.

183. *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*—Loggerhead Shrike.

Resident. Generally distributed but occurring outside of the

* See Wilson Bulletin, September, 1919.

heavily timbered areas. One seen chasing a Savannah Sparrow for least 150 yards and then abandoned the chase. April 9, 1914, eggs nearly hatching. Local names, "French Mockingbird," "Nine Killer."

184. *Vireosylva olivacea*—Red-eyed Vireo.

Summer resident. Remain to nest with us in limited numbers only. April 1, 1917, October 26, 1913.

185. *Vireosylva gilva gilva*—Warbling Vireo.

Casual migrant. On May 26, 1916, I heard the song of this bird and observed it for some time in a Live Oak at close range. I have no other record.

186. *Lanivireo flavifrons*—Yellow-throated Vireo.

Seemingly but few remain to nest with us. March 25, 1916, is my earliest date for an arrival.

187. *Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*—Blue-headed Vireo.

A few remain through the winter, and during early March they are most numerous. December 16, 1916, March 19, 1917.

188. *Vireo griseus*—White-eyed Vireo.

I have not found this irrepressible in mid-winter, although it may occur sparingly. They frequent the river shores, branches and borders of ponds where they can find an abundance of dense undergrowth. March 11, 1914, October 26, 1913.

189. *Mniotilta varia*—Black and White Warbler.

A regular migrant and probably occurring regularly in winter, although I have noted it but seldom after November 1. July 21, 1915, October 28, 1916, January 15, 1916.

190. *Protonotaria citrea*—Prothonotary Warbler.

Summer resident. Along the wooded streams and river bottoms the clear, sweet strains of the Prothonotary are to be heard ringing. Earliest noted April 7, 1914.

191. *Vermivora cclata celata*—Orange-crowned Warbler.

Probably a regular winter resident in our country. I have not observed it as common.

192. *Compsothlypis americana americana*—Parula Warbler.

In the more open hammocks and along wooded streams and ponds the Parula haunts the moss-trailed trees throughout the greater part of the year. Probably a few at least winter with us. March 15, 1914, November 12, 1913.

193. *Dendroica tigrina*—Cape May Warbler.

It was a red-letter day when on May 2, 1919, in company with Dr. T. S. Palmer of the Biological Survey, and R. W. Williams, Esq., Department of Agriculture, we watched the movements of a handsome male of this species near our lighthouse. I have no other record.

194. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*—Yellow Warbler.

I have not observed it as an abundant migrant, but usually see a few each fall and spring. April 11, 1919, October 8, 1918.

195. *Dendroica coronata*—Myrtle Warbler.

One of our most abundant winter visitors and distributed generally wherever tree growth is found, except it be in the deeper, dense hammocks. October 24, 1917, April 22, 1914.

196. *Dendroica magnolia*—Magnolia Warbler.

My lone record is for a single bird seen in the yard at the lighthouse September 30, 1917.

197. *Dendroica striata*—Black-poll Warbler.

My notes would indicate this to be of rather rare occurrence. April 14, 1914, October 26, 1913.

198. *Dendroica fusca*—Blackburnian Warbler.

A single bird noted October 18, 1914, is my only record.

199. *Dendroica dominica dominica*—Yellow-throated Warbler.

Occurs much more plentifully as a breeding bird than it does in winter. After October they are but little in evidence. January 14, 1914, one found dead; January 16, 1915, one seen.

200. *Dendroica virens*—Black-throated Green Warbler.

I have but two positive records: a bird was seen at close range October 26, 1913, another May 2, 1919.

201. *Dendroica vigorsii*—Pine Warbler.

Abundant in the more open pine timber. From late summer until early spring they frequently associate in flocks of twenty or thirty to one hundred or more and often glean their food on the ground. In a wet season it is not unusual to see them in the low flat woods wading and feeding in the shallow pools and frequently alighting on the lower trunks of trees. They seldom sing from late fall until after the colder weather is past, commencing about February 1 with their oft repeated and rather sweet trill. May 2, 1915, a pair nest building.

202. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*—Palm Warbler.

Among the more abundant species that are with us in winter. Frequent fields and the open pine woods. September 26, 1913, May 2, 1919.

203. *Dendroica p. hypochrysa*—Yellow Palm Warbler.

Frequently associates with the preceding species, but is less numerous and usually arrive rather later. October 15, 1916, May 2, 1919.

204. *Dendroica discolor*—Prairie Warbler.

While this bird may be more common in the higher portions of our county, it evidently does not often visit our low districts; my only records are of birds seen, one at the lighthouse September 30, 1917, one September 15, 1918, one May 2, 1919.

205. *Sciurus aurocapillus*—Oven-bird.

Probably a regular winter resident, as I have several records from November 30 to March 14.

206. *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*—Water-Thrush.

Occurs regularly in suitable localities during migrations.

207. *Seiurus motacilla*—Louisiana Water-Thrush.

Neither species of Water-Thrush has been found numerous. September 2, 1913, April 3, 1915.

208. *Oporornis formosus*—Kentucky Warbler.

Migrant. On April 4, 1917, while visiting a large colony of Little Blue Herons, I was pleased to see one of these birds at close range.

209. *Oporornis agilis*—Connecticut Warbler.

On September 21, 1916, at a distance not exceeding twenty feet, I watched one of these birds feeding in a clump of weeds. This is the only one seen here.

210. *Geothlypis trichas ignota*—Florida Yellow-throat.

Resident. This species of cheerful song frequents the vicinity of rivers, bayous and ponds where there is an abundance of grasses and bushy growth. April 12, 1919, nest with four fresh eggs.

211. *Wilsonia citrina*—Hooded Warbler.

A regular but not abundant spring and fall migrant. April 3, 1915, September 24, 1914.

212. *Wilsonia canadensis*—Canada Warbler.

I had not seen the species here until the present year (1919). May 2 a ♀ was noted in yard at the lighthouse and a ♂ was observed in our village limits May 5, 1919.

213. *Setophaga ruticilla*—Redstart.

Seemingly it occurs regularly on migrations, but not in numbers. September 30, 1917, May 2, 1919.

214. *Anthus rubescens*—Pipit.

At times this bird of the far north appears in considerable numbers, while again we do not see it during an entire winter. November 2, 1916, March 25, 1914.

215. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*—Mockingbird.

Very generally distributed except in the heavily wooded regions. The song season commences by late February or early March and continues except for a brief spell until late September. During the last of July and in August they have a silent season, but later are again in good tune. They are very destructive to strawberries where but small quantities of this fruit is grown.

216. *Dumetella carolinensis*—Catbird.

This bird does not seem to be numerous in our county and thus far I have failed to note it as a nesting bird. A few only appear to spend the colder season here. October 1, 1917, January 16, 1914, May 3, 1919.

217. *Toxostoma rufum*—Brown Thrasher.

Decidedly more numerous as a winter visitor than during the breeding season. While a few remain about St. Marks they are never abundant in summer near the coast.

218. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*—Carolina Wren.

Resident. Very generally distributed. May 15, 1914, fresh eggs July 8, 1914, fresh eggs.

219. *Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*—Bewick's Wren.

I have but a single record for our county: a bird seen at Wakulla March 16, 1918, and I think it seldom appears in our near-coast region.

220. *Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*—House Wren.

Winter visitor. Found about dwellings, in the open pine woods and in the heavier timbered bottoms. Occasionally in song while with us. October 3, 1916, April 17, 1916.

221. *Troglodytes aëdon parkmani*—Western House Wren.

Dr. Oberholser has identified a bird of this form taken at St. Marks February 9, 1914.

222. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*—Winter Wren.

I have found it less numerous than the House Wren, but a few are to be seen every winter. November 5, 1916, February 26, 1916.

223. *Cistothorus stellaris*—Short-billed Marsh Wren.

Winter Visitor. Doubtless this species is more numerous than my notes would indicate. Its extremely secretive habits in the thick marsh grasses often make identification uncertain. October 29, 1916, April 21, 1917.

224. *Telmato dytscpalustris pelustris*—Long-billed Marsh Wren.

A rather common winter resident, as shown by specimens collected at that season.

225. *Telmatodytes p. iliacus*—Prairie Marsh Wren.

By letter dated March 12, 1918, R. W. Williams, Esq., of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., advises me he found this form in the marshes west of our lighthouse in November, 1917.

226. *Telmatodytes p. marianæ*—Marian's Marsh Wren.

A common resident of our salt water marshes.

227. *Certhia familiaris familiaris*—Brown Creeper.

A few are with us every winter. November 21, 1913, March 19, 1917.

228. *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*—Florida White-breasted Nuthatch.

Resident. Found here in limited numbers only. Bird feeding a brooding mate March 22, 1914.

229. *Sitta pusilla*—Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Resident. A most active and generally distributed species. Nest with fresh eggs March 8, 1917.

230. *Baeolophus bicolor*—Tufted Titmouse.

Resident. Very generally distributed, but more numerous in the higher parts of the county. Nest-building begins about the middle of March.

231. *Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*—Carolina Chickadee.

Resident. Found generally throughout the section in suitable localities. April 12, 1915, fresh eggs.

232. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*—Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Probably a few come every winter, but I have never found them common. October 26, 1913, January 6, 1914.

233. *Regulus calendula calendula*—Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Winter visitor. Much more abundant with us than the preceding. Occasionally a low, sweet song effort is heard. October 28, 1916, April 19, 1915.

234. *Poliophtila cerulea cerulea*—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

While not abundant with us in midwinter, at other times this dainty, active mite is to be found commonly in timber bordering streams and ponds. Nest with five fresh eggs April 17, 1916. On March 18, 1919, nest building commenced with one pair.

235. *Hylocichla mustelina*—Wood Thrush.

I have seen but a single bird in the county. On October 1, 1917, during a severe blow, one was seen in a thick clump of bushes near the lighthouse.

236. *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*—Veery.

A migrant that does not appear to occur at all commonly. March 10, 1917, May 3, 1915.

237. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*—Hermit Thrush.

Occur in considerable numbers during winter and early spring. October 28, 1916, April 11, 1919.

238. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*—Robin.

Winter visitant. Not at all regular in its appearance here. Sometimes it occurs in large flocks that seek the river bottoms for food and again we see but few during an entire winter.

239. *Sialia sialis sialis*—Bluebird.

While we hear the soft, gentle notes of the Bluebird throughout the nesting season they are much more numerous as a winter visitor.

ADDITIONAL SPECIES.

Not included in the enumeration, but believed to have occurred:

Olor columbianus—Whistling Swan.

A Swan was seen on the upper river, within a mile of our village, at various times, for several days, about 1904 or 1905.

Aramus vociferus—Limpkin.

While I have not seen this bird here it has been accurately

described to me as having been observed by different persons. "Nigger-boy" it is called, "because it hollers so queer."

Ardea herodias herodias—Great Blue Heron.

A bird of this species shot January 20, 1919, measured: length 43½ in.; wing 18¼ in., bill on top 5 in., tarsus 6½ in., sex, ♂. Dr. Oberholser writes me regarding this bird: "If you have correctly sexed the specimen I should say that your bird is without much doubt *Ardea herodias herodias* from the measurements you give. This form should be of more or less regular occurrence in winter in Florida, but as the distinction between it and *A. h. wardi* is partly in color I cannot be absolutely positive without seeing the specimen."

Guiraca caerulea caerulea—Blue Grosbeak.

Mr. John Linton has on at least two occasions seen a dark blue bird larger than an Indigo bird and not *Sialia sialis*. As the species has occurred in Loon County, next adjoining us to the north, it doubtless visits us occasionally.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni—Olive-backed Thrush.

On four occasions I have seen birds believed to be of this form, but no specimens have been taken. October 26, 1913, November 3 and November 21, 1913, and March 1, 1914.

INTRODUCED SPECIES.

Passer domesticus—English Sparrow.

While these birds have had a footing here for a good many years they increase but little about St. Marks and are not generally distributed over the county.

SUMMARY.

The species treated may be grouped as follows:

Residents	63
Summer Residents	30
Migrants	30
Winter Visitors	97
Casuals	14
Extinct or Disappeared.	4
<hr/>	
Native Species	238
Introduced	1
Need confirmation	5

A few of the species listed as Summer Residents may occasionally occur in winter. One or two given as migrants may nest here rarely. The list of Casuals has been extended to include some species that probably nested here formerly, may be seen here in summer, but of which no record can be found for their breeding with us in recent years.